

# New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

# NJPAC

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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEWARK CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HAVE EARNED MORE THAN \$1,000,000 BUILDING NJPAC

NEWARK, NJ -- Newark residents who are part of the construction team building the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in their home city have earned more than one million dollars in wages and benefits for their efforts to date.

NJPAC President and CEO Lawrence P. Goldman said the Arts Center's Board and management made hiring of Newark residents, whenever possible, a priority stressed to all its contractors.

"We have set out on a journey," Goldman said, "to create one of the great Arts Centers of the 21st Century which will not only be 'for' the enjoyment and cultural and educational enrichment of the people of New Jersey but, in great measure, built by them also."

"I am elated," said Newark Mayor Sharpe James, "that Newark residents have been able to take advantage of the financial opportunities arising from development of the Arts Center. This also means that many of the dollars earned are being spent in Newark retail stores, restaurants and neighborhood shops."

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"NJPAC will be a jewel for all New Jersey residents," Mayor James said "but it will always have special meaning to Newark not only because it is located here but because of the Newark residents who are helping to build it."

Gustav Heningburg, president of Gustav Heningburg Associates, Inc., of Newark, a minority-owned firm retained by NJPAC to help develop and implement its minority participation program, said: "Until now, no construction project built in the City of Newark since public policy guidelines were developed to assure Newark residents their fair share of jobs has resulted in wages exceeding one million dollars."

More importantly, Heningburg pointed out, Newark residents are working in virtually every construction trade including teamsters, operating engineers, carpenters, masons, iron workers, electricians, plumbers, painters, asbestos workers and laborers. Through May 31, 1996, according to certified data collected by his firm, construction workers who reside in Newark had logged 38,470 hours.

On a broader scale, according to Gail L. Thompson, Vice President for Design and Construction, "NJPAC has held steadfast to its commitment that minority (MBE) and women-owned (WBE) businesses would be afforded extraordinary opportunities to

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participate in the design and construction of the Arts Center."

Of the \$70,648,560 in contracts awarded to date by NJPAC, 34 percent -- or \$23,723,895 -- have been awarded to MBE/WBE firms.

Thompson also pointed out that \$4,272,394 or 42 percent of the total wages paid through May 31 have been paid to minority construction workers.

With more than 60 percent of the construction completed, NJPAC is on track to meet its scheduled opening in the Fall of 1997.

The \$180 million Arts Center, the first to be built in the northeast in 30 years, is under construction on a 12-acre site in the heart of downtown Newark. The Center will include two theaters -- the 2,750-seat Prudential Hall and the 500-seat Victoria Theater -- restaurants, rehearsal and administrative space, a gift shop and banquet facilities.

Theater Square, a public plaza and performance space, is being constructed adjacent to Prudential Hall. New surface and underground parking will be available immediately adjacent to the Arts Center.

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